

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of assembling a link to a support;

the link comprising a body that is elongated along a longitudinal axis between a first sleeve and a second sleeve that are part of the body, ~~in which link~~ at least the first sleeve surrounds an inner strength member, said inner strength member being mounted to move relative to the body of the link, about an axis of rotation, by ~~means of~~ a flexible coupling interposed between said strength member and the first sleeve, a passageway passing through the inner strength member substantially along the axis of rotation; and

the support having at least one fixing tab provided with a fixing orifice,

the method comprising:

positioning ~~in which method~~ the link and the support ~~are positioned~~ so that the passageway passing through the inner strength member faces the fixing orifice; and

engaging ~~wherein~~ a fixing shank is engaged by force along the axis of rotation into the fixing orifice[[,]] and into at least a portion of the passageway so as to hold the link ~~connection~~ on the support and so as to prevent the inner strength member from rotating relative to the support.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, in which the support has two fixing tabs, each of which is provided with a fixing orifice, in which the link and the support are positioned so that the passageway passing through the inner strength member extends between the two fixing orifices, and in which a fixing shank is engaged by force so that it passes both through the passageway and also through each of the fixing orifices.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, in which the support has two fixing tabs, each of which is provided with a respective fixing orifice, in which the link and the support are positioned so that the passageway passing through the inner strength member extends between the two fixing orifices, and in which two fixing shanks are engaged by force so that each of the is engaged both in at least a portion of the passageway and also in a respective one of the fixing orifices.

4. (Currently amended) A vibration-damping device comprising a link and a support;

the link comprising a body that is elongated along a longitudinal axis between a first sleeve and a second sleeve that are part of the body, in which said link at least the first sleeve surrounds an inner strength member, said inner strength member is being mounted to move relative to the body of the link, about an axis of rotation, by ~~means of~~ a flexible coupling interposed between said strength member and the first sleeve, a passageway passing through the inner strength member substantially along the axis of rotation; and

the support having at least one fixing tab provided with a fixing orifice, in which device the link and the support are positioned so that the passageway passing through the inner strength member faces the fixing orifice;

wherein the link and the support are assembled together by ~~means of~~ at least one fixing shank extending along the axis of rotation and force fitted in the fixing orifice[[,]] and in at least a portion of the passageway so as to hold the link connection on the support and so as to prevent the inner strength member from rotating relative to the support.

5. (Currently amended) A vibration-damping device according to claim 4, in which the at least one fixing shank is two fixing shanks and the support has:

two fixing tabs, each of which is provided with a respective fixing orifice, the passageway passing through the inner strength member extending between the two fixing orifices, and

each of the two fixing shanks being engaged both in at least a portion of the passageway and also in a respective one of the fixing orifices.

6. (Previously presented) A vibration-damping device according to claim 4, in which each fixing shank has an outside surface over which fluting is distributed that extends longitudinally parallel to the axis of rotation.

7. (Original) A vibration-damping device according to claim 4, in which each fixing shank is provided with a head being stopped by a fixing tab on that side of the fixing tab which is opposite from its side that co-operates with the inner strength member.

8. (Previously presented) A vibration-damping device according to claim 4, in which each fixing shank is made of steel.

9. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
a link comprising

(i) a first sleeve;

(ii) a second sleeve;

(iii) a body elongated along a longitudinal axis, the body interconnecting the first sleeve and the second sleeve;

(iv) an inner strength member surrounded by the first sleeve, wherein the inner strength member defines a passageway substantially along an axis of rotation of the inner strength member; and

(v) a flexible coupling interposed between the inner strength member and the first sleeve, wherein the inner strength member is rotatable about the axis of rotation relative to the body of the link;

a support comprising:

(vi) at least one fixing tab; and

(vii) a fixing orifice,

wherein the link and the support are arranged such that the passageway of the inner strength member faces the fixing orifice; and

at least one fixing shank force fitted in the fixing orifice and in passing through the fixing orifice and arranged within at least a portion of the passageway of the inner strength member, wherein the fixing shank is configured to prevent the inner strength member from rotating relative to the support.